

Press-Herald

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Common Sense Needed

The problems which plague downtown Torrance are numerous. Many of them can be traced directly to the invention of the automobile.

Some of the problems can be traced indirectly to the auto, but more directly to the unbending insistence on compliance with the most restrictive clauses in the city's laws governing use of downtown property.

The problem of keeping the business buildings in the city's 50-year-old business district usefully occupied has concerned civic and business leaders for many years. The city, recognizing this situation, spent more than \$100,000 in an improvement program a few years ago. Property owners banded together and purchased off-street parking areas.

Despite this, a number of valuable buildings remain empty and more could join the list.

A shortage of parking space — once a major threat to the area — no longer is the major cause of the downtown decline.

Certainly the city's new big shopping centers are a prime cause, but a major contributing factor has been the placing of the most stringent, limiting interpretations on city regulations relative to the occupancy of buildings in that area. Many of those buildings stand empty today because of strict demands placed on prospective tenants — demands that were not needed and could not possibly be met.

No special treatment is needed, but a commonsense approach to the application of the city's regulations certainly would benefit the area and, in turn, would benefit the entire city. In cases where the factors are equal, the decision should favor the location of a new, taxpaying tenant.

Empty buildings we don't need.

OTHERS SAY

What's the Answer?

If past experience is any criterion, that perennial issue "Right-to-Work" will again be brought to the attention of Congress. Organized labor, with the help of misnamed liberal members of Congress, will seek to deprive the states of the right of self-determination on the matter of compulsory unionism by urging repeal of Section 14 (b) of the Taft-Hartley Act.

At the present time, there are some 400,000 U.S. men fighting a war half a world away to uphold the belief that the small country of South Viet Nam should have the right of self-determination in choosing the kind of government it wishes to live under. And yet, we find 19 states now have right-to-work laws, which have been adopted by the people's legislators in those states.

If congress by fiat abolishes these right-to-work laws, it will be violating in principle the right of self-determination. One can reasonably ask, should not this right be as sacred in our own country as it is in Viet Nam?—Liberal (Kansas) Southwest Daily Times.

It is one of the dogmas of the welfare state that money can solve any problem. It is one of the tragedies of the welfare state that this ain't necessarily so.

A few days ago San Francisco's war on poverty turned into an internecine shouting match over money and its uses. An audit of local operations, made by national headquarters, revealed what were said to be rather un-welfarish uses of federal tax moneys; the sort of boondoggling that too often arises in government financed aid programs.

Naturally the charges were denied. But whatever their merits, the accusations ring a familiar tune. Tons of money don't bring tons of relief because there are too many people involved — and not all of them, by any means, mendacious; too much overhead, too much chance for playing politics with human misery.

This is not to say that we should not spend generously to aid our fellow men in need. It is simply to say that charity begins at home, and the farther away from home the management of it is, the less chance of its doing the greatest good for the greatest number.—California Feature Service.

We Quote . . .

The solution to metropolitan problems can be developed by the states, by the federal government, or both. The decision as to which it shall be rests to a considerable extent with the state governments, because if they choose not to act, metropolitan problems, by default, become largely a federal problem. — William G. Colman, executive secretary of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

Morning Report:

I think it goes without saying that if our public relations were as accurate as our bombing, Mr. Johnson would not be having so much trouble about Viet Nam. And he is having plenty.

Official statements just ignore some plain facts of any war. And a major fact is that in bombing, people get killed. The favorite phrase of the handouts is "pin point bombing" — but this refers to a pin on a map and not a pin on the ground.

Everybody who was around during World War II likes to remember that Colin Kelly dropped a bomb down the smokestack of a Japanese battleship, even if he didn't. We all forget that out of millions dropped, it was the only one that made it.

Abe Mellinkoff

Just Add To The Length Of The Pole



FROM THE MAILBOX

White Says Police Cadet Program Aids Recruiting

Editor, Press-Herald
I was extremely interested in the Press-Herald editorial of Sunday, Jan. 8, 1967, regarding the recruitment of police officers for the City of Torrance.

I quite agree with your

Dental Society Stand Challenged

Editor, Press-Herald
Your Jan. 1, 1967, issue contained an article on dental health that dealt with the subject of fluoridation. The article questions why so many communities have failed to adopt fluoridation of the public water supply. The theory is developed throughout the article that those who are opposed to fluoridation are ignoring all the medical opinion and facts pertaining to alleged benefits to be derived by fluoridating public water supplies, and thereby denying these benefits to millions of children.

I have no quarrel with the technical and scientific aspects of fluoridation. That is for the experts in the field to handle. I do want to air one consideration that is seldom discussed, or if so, is brushed aside as not applicable to the discussion of fluoridation. This is the basic inherent right of every individual to choose for himself the manner and means of treating his own body.

Mass fluoridation violates that right and establishes a practice in opposition to the principle that the only time mankind is warranted in interfering with the liberty or action of any individual is self-protection. There is obviously no threat or danger to the public welfare, so why should fluoridation be exempt from this principle? Compulsory fluoridation goes far beyond almost all public health measures now in existence, even those for serious contagious diseases.

No one is being denied the use of fluorides. They are readily available to those wanting them, and if secured individually would be used under more controlled conditions than if obtained through the public water supply. Some areas have even instituted free distribution of fluorides to those desiring them at lower cost than mass medication via the public water supply.

I believe that there is an awakening of the people to the threat of denial of freedoms and rights and that this awakening will enable the exercise of a positive and proper control in the dissemination of fluorides, look.
HENRY MOREAU
Torrance

position that police work is an honorable profession and that we need to recruit the best available material for this vital segment of public employment. The Torrance Police Department, in my opinion, is one of the better administered departments in the State of California and, perhaps, in the nation. We are extremely fortunate in having a for-

Letters

ward looking Chief of Police who is constantly interested in a new experimentation which will lead to a better service for the citizens of Torrance. He has surrounded himself with some extremely capable assistants who have, time and again, demonstrated a dedication to service which is outstanding.

More than a year ago Chief of Police Walter Koenig, in conjunction with City Manager Ferraro, went to the Civil Service Commission with an idea for police recruitment. The commission discussed the idea and worked out a program for the City of Torrance which, in my opinion, is one of the best programs for developing, training and retaining top quality candidates for the law enforcement profession. The plan as adopted provides for a police cadet corps for the City of Torrance which is open to high school graduates eighteen years of age and over. Entrance into the corps is by way of an examination which is administered by the Personnel Department of the City of Torrance under the leadership of Ted Donovan, Personnel Director.

Having passed the examination requirements, cadets are sworn in to the corps and provided approximately twenty hours of work per week in the Police Department on non official duties, principally of a clerical nature. (They do not ride in patrol cars nor operate police vehicles.) Their work schedules are worked out in such a way that there is no interference with their educational program. Each cadet is required, as a condition of membership in the cadet corps, to be enrolled

in a local Junior College (either Harbor or El Camino) with a major in police science and an accent on English.

So long as the cadet's grades meet the school requirements and he maintains a passing grade in performance evaluation by the Police Department, his membership is continuous. He may take the examination for police officer between his twentieth and twenty-first birthday and thus be on an eligible list for employment as a police officer on his twenty-first birthday.

There are a number of sharp, dedicated young fellows now in the cadet corps and the Personnel Department continues to recruit candidates for the corps from the graduating classes of the Torrance high schools. I, for one, am proud of this program, delighted that we have a City Manager and Chief of Police who are willing to try new programs for the benefit of the citizenry, and am proud to have had some small part in its development.

Robert B. White
Civil Service Commissioner
City of Torrance

WILLIAM HOGAN

49th State to Launch Own University Press

Northwest Intelligence: During the Spring a new publishing imprint will appear, "A University of Alaska Press Book," distributed by the University of Washington Press.

John P. Collins, who keeps us posted on the literary situation in the Pacific Northwest, explains that the newly-formed Alaska venture will begin with four titles, first of which will be "Eskimo Pre-history," first English translation of a major archaeological study by Hans-Georg Bandi, a Swiss professor who is an associate in archaeology at the University of Alaska. The work presents the results of decades of research in the Arctic and sub-Arctic. This has produced more and more evidence that the Eskimos can boast a history that goes back for several millennia.

Other Spring titles from the 49th State include: "Mt. McKinley: The Pioneer Climbs," by Terris Moore, a former president of the American Museum of Science who was a member of the first expedition to reach

HERB CAEN SAYS:

His 30-Year-Old Vow: To Lick San Francisco

I became a San Franciscan 30 years ago. A few more years and I'll be able to palm myself off as a native and forget that I spent my first 20 years as a Sacramento boy — although I doubt that the readers will let me forget it. During my break-in period on The San Francisco Chronicle, when I committed even more gaffes than I do now, every other letter-writer observed aside that "You can take the boy out of the country but you can't take the country out of a boy." A cleverly turned phrase. I thought upon first reading it, but it soon palled.

At the time I was summoned to bigger and better things, I was working for the Sacramento Union as a police reporter. The Union is the oldest daily West of the Rockies, and in those days it looked it (oddly enough it began flourishing shortly after I left). It was such a small operation, in fact, that late one night, when the Police Chief of North Sacramento was murdered, an old Chicago hand named H. Lee Watson and I put out an "extra" all by ourselves. We were so proud of our feat that we stayed up all night and got drunk — not an easy thing to do in Sacramento at that time — but the publisher almost

fired us the next day for squandering money. "Who cares about NORTH Sacramento?" he kept saying. Nevertheless, when The Chronicle offered me a job at \$50 a week, he countered with an offer of \$35, a \$10 raise. I was touched, but not enough.

For my attack on the Big San Francisco

City, I bought my very first (and last) hat, which I wore with the brim turned up in front, like Front Page Farrell. On the ferry crossing the Bay, I stood at the rail, shook my fist at the approaching, frightening skyline, and vowed "I'll lick you, San Francisco!" At which point the Bay breeze, understandably off ended, plucked the hat off my head and flung it into the water, for the seagulls to peck at. A bad omen, at least for the hatmakers. In those days, I had about 18 pounds of hair, and by the time I arrived at The Chronicle building, it was standing out in all directions, as though I had just been electrocuted. The then editor's secretary, a salty redhead named Dorothy McCarthy, took one look at me, slapped her forehead and croaked: "Migawd, now we're hiring people with fright wigs!" It's 30 years

later, and I still haven't thought of a riposte.

Strait shooter: Guy Strait, of whom you probably never heard until this very moment, publishes a biweekly paper for homosexuals called "Cruise News & World Report" — a name that U. S. News & World Report finds not at all amusing. That conservative magazine's local lawyer said to Strait the other day: "I've read your publication quite carefully, and I don't understand why you're using that title in the first place. There's nothing in it about cruises." "Well, sir," replied Strait, "it's a problem of semantics. You're using the King's English. I use the Queen's!"

Jayne Mansfield phones the San Francisco sorcerer, Anton LaVey, every midnight, so he can cast a happy spell over her for the following day. . . . But that's nothing: This Stetson-topped Texan went to Nam Yuen in Chinatown for lunch there to be greeted by Al Chan, one of the owners. That night, he dined at the Marco Polo in Oakland's Jack London Square — and was again greeted by Al Chan, one of the owners of that, too. "Well, Ah'll Be!" drawled the Texan. "All you Chinese boys really DO look alike!"

D. A. SPEAKS

Unusual Return Reported For Operation Cool Head

By EVELLE J. YOUNGER
District Attorney

There are many kinds of reimbursement to the county. Cities that receive police, fire protection, or other services under contract provide one example. But mostly these payments represent a kind of transfer of tax funds from one pocket to another.

The reimbursement this month for Operation Cool Head was quite different. There was no contract. The Board of Supervisors had no reason to expect to get back this \$1,100. And that money, in any case, covered the cost of only one mailing — the county's single assistance — in our program enlisting young people on constructive activities in the summer of 1966.

The point is that from the beginning we felt the taxpayers should not bear any of the Cool Head cost. And they did not. The financing came entirely through con-

tributions from volunteer sources. Much of the money for Operation Cool Head was provided by members of the District Attorney's Advisory Council. The remainder came from other private citizens. A committee from St. Paul's Baptist Church in Los Angeles handled the mechanical details under the personal direction of the Rev. John L. Branham.

County Affairs

But even more important than money, perhaps, the Cool Head program, from the day of its inception in May, 1966, received priceless gifts of personal service.

When I toured the county talking to young people, prominent sports and theatrical personalities came along. Among them were football stars Mike Garrett and Danny Villanueva and basketball ace Walt Hazzard.

Because of its timing, we believe, the movement was

a key factor in keeping peace on Los Angeles streets last summer. There were riots in many other major cities. And it was in August, a year earlier, that Watts erupted.

Operation Cool Head was a simple program. Students pledged, by signature, to accept responsibility for their own actions and wore buttons as visible proof of their commitment. The program succeeded because both the public and law enforcement were ready for something that would reduce tensions.

It was a matter of timing. Last May we were at a crucial juncture. Summer was almost here, and a lot of people had worked hard to keep the peace in Los Angeles County, but there were still the youth to think about. From this crossroads we could head toward our most splendid triumph, or we could become a sort of two-time loser and seem, and perhaps become, a delinquent community.

The Board of Supervisors got a reimbursement check for \$1,100. But there is really no way of measuring how much Operation Cool Head saved the people of Los Angeles County.

The history of our contest with welfare fraud last year was a chain of diminishing figures — from a backlog of 605 cases Jan. 1 to none Dec. 31.

We did not accomplish this without cost. The price of the crackdown was the amount paid in additional salaries for 12 new investigators. Hiring them enlarged our force in this field to 20.

A letter to the Board of Supervisors explained the arithmetic. It stated:

"Investigations conducted by the Welfare Fraud Section resulted in 305 complaints being issued. The average overpayment alleged in these cases was \$912. This would represent a total of \$278,264. Restitution ordered as a result of convictions obtained during 1966 totaled \$116,357."

But this is only part of the story. There are 436 cases now under investigation — not out of a backlog, but assigned as soon as they are referred to us. And there are others in court, or about to be brought there.

The Old Timer



There's nothing like a little soft soap to remove a dirty look.